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Powers of the Superintendent, Government Press.

*139 *Q.*—Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) what are the powers of the Superintendent, Government Press, as head of a department and what are his qualifications;

(*b*) whether an appeal against his orders can be made only to Government and whether in most cases there is no right of appeal and why; and

(*c*) why the Government did not insist on the Superintendent's passing the Account test?

A.—(*a*) The Superintendent, Government Press, has not been declared a head of a department. He is a qualified printer with practical experience in printing work.

(*b*) It is presumed that the hon. Member is referring to appeals against orders of punishment of subordinate employees in the press. Appeals in such cases are regulated by the rules framed under the Civil Services (Governors' Provinces) Classification Rules. Where appeals are permitted, they lie to Government.

(*c*) There is no single Account test, common to all departments, as implied in the question. Where officers are required to pass a test in accounts, different tests are prescribed for different classes of officers. The Superintendent, Government Press, is one of a number of officers for whom Government did not think it necessary to prescribe a test. This decision has lately been reconsidered.

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA:—"In answer to clause (*a*) of this question, it is said that the Superintendent has not been declared a head of a department. If that is the case, what powers had he to dismiss many subordinates and to refuse leave to many others?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Under the rules, he has got powers to do that."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA:—"If he is not competent to be the head of a department, do the Government recognize such a man as a fit person to dismiss 800 and odd subordinates out of 1,500 and odd?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"Under the rules, the Superintendent, Government Press, has got power to punish his subordinates."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA:—"May I know whether the Superintendent has power to refuse leave to a man who dies with typhoid fever?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I am not aware of the case."

Dr. B. S. Mallayya rose in his seat.

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member will have to wait till the hon. the Home Member makes his reply."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA:—"It is due to our anxiety to go on with the particular question before the next question is called, Sir. (Laughter)?"

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The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member will have to exercise some self-control."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" At the end of the answer to clause (c) it is said that ' this decision has lately been reconsidered.' May I know when it was reconsidered and whether the Government now insist upon the Superintendent passing the Account test ? "

The hon Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" The Government think that he should pass some Account test. The question has not yet been finally decided."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" When was it reconsidered ? "

The hon Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" About a year ago or so. I don't remember the exact date."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" May I know from the hon. the Home Member whether he is aware of the fact that one Balasundaram who was suffering from typhoid applied for leave, that he was asked to present himself before the Superintendent, that he had to go to the Press and do work, that he fell down there, that he was taken home and soon after expired, that his widow submitted a memorial to the Government saying that if the Superintendent had not asked her husband to work with typhoid on, he would have lived, and that the Government paid a compensation to the poor widow ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member is furnishing information."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" Sir, I want to know whether the Government are aware of these facts and whether patients should go before the Superintendent for verification by him and die the next day ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I am not aware of it. I shall make enquiries."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know whether the Government have made enquiries in regard to these cases ; in how many cases have they made enquiries and satisfied themselves that this gentleman is not improperly using the authority vested in him ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I should like to have notice."

Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU :—" To clause (c) the Government say that the decision has lately been reconsidered. May I know with what result ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I have already answered that, Sir."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" Will the Government be pleased to enquire whether there were cases in which medical certificates were produced and yet even casual leave was not granted and see that in future at least no such thing happens ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I am prepared to make enquiries."

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Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" May I know from the hon. the Home Member whether the Superintendent is one of a number of officers for whom the Government do not consider that any test is necessary and whether the Superintendent without passing any test is doing his work satisfactorily ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" He is doing his work satisfactorily."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" Are the Government satisfied that the work done by him at present is satisfactory ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " Yes."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" With all these dismissals and deaths ? "

Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU :—" In view of these dismissals and suspensions and other irregularities, is there not something inherently wrong in the Press ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " No, Sir."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know whether the Superintendent, Government Press, as head of the office, carries on the accounts side of it ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " Yes, Sir."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" May I know whether the same is the case in other workshops and departments in the portfolio of the hon. the Home Member ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :—" I don't understand the question, Sir."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" I wish to know whether it is a special exemption to this officer or it is a general exemption to the Superintendent."

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur :— " This is a matter that relates to what happened ten or fifteen years ago."

Alleged memorials from the piece-workers in the Government Press.

* 140 Q.—Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the piece-workers of the Government Press submitted memorials to Government thrice in the year 1927 for improvement of their conditions of service, remuneration, etc., and whether they have all been rejected without any enquiry into them and why ; and

(*b*) whether there is a good deal of friction between the Superintendent and the employees of the Government Press ?